

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:PKENNEDY
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
M/MO - G. MAYS

-----041642 241847Z /43

P 241808Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM VELIOTES

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAID, EINV, EG, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT OF OPIC OFFICER TO CAIRO

1. YOU WILL BE RECEIVING BY SEPTTEL A CABLE FROM OPIC AND AID PROPOSING AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD LEAD TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN OPIC OFFICER TO CAIRO. IT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED HERE BETWEEN OPIC AND AID FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS, IT ONLY CAME TO OUR ATTENTION A FEW DAYS AGO AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF OUR AND M/MO'S CONCERNS.

2. THERE HAS NOT BEEN ENOUGH TIME TO DISCUSS OR COORDINATE OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO THE OPIC PROPOSAL BECAUSE OF OPIC'S "URGENT" NEED FOR YOUR VIEWS. (THEY ORIGINALLY PROPOSED TO HAVE YOUR CONCURRENCE BY APRIL 25). SEVERAL ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL RAISE QUESTIONS WHICH ARE, OR COULD BE, TROUBLESOME. THERE ARE ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL
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("POLICY GUIDANCE FROM OPIC" AND THE AVAILABILITY OF THE OFFICER TO UNDERTAKE OPIC ASSIGNMENTS IN NEARBY COUNTRIES) WHICH HINT AT A SEMI-REGIONAL ATTACHE ROLE. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT COULD SET AN UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT SINCE OPIC CURRENTLY HAS NO PERSONNEL ASSIGNED OVERSEAS.

3. WHEN AID/W SPEAKS OF OFFERING A POSITION TO OPIC "WITH-

IN USAID MODE LEVELS" WE ARE NOT SURE (AND AID HAS NOT

CLARIFIED FOR US) IF THIS WOULD BE A CURRENTLY APPROVED
SLOT, ONE PROPOSED BUT NOT YET APPROVED OR ONE NOT YET
PROPOSED.

4. IN ADDITION, WE ALSO ARE NOT CONVINCED THAT OPIC HAS
ANY "SPECIAL" QUALIFICATIONS TO OFFER. IN THIS CONTEXT
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THE U.S.-EGYPT BUSINESS COUNCIL'S
"HEARTY ENDORSEMENT" IS SOMEWHAT QUALIFIED. U.S. BUSINESS
COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOMEONE WITH U.S. BUSINESS
EXPERIENCE IN CAIRO WHO COULD IDENTIFY GOOD POTENTIAL
JOINT VENTURE PROJECTS. FOR THE BUSINESS COUNCIL, THE
OPIC PROPOSAL IS ANOTHER SHOT (ALBEIT, MODIFIED) AT THE
INVESTMENT STIMULATION FUNCTION ONCE PERFORMED BY MR.
POTTS. THE COUNCIL BY NATURE WOULD WELCOME ANOTHER
LABORER IN THE VINEYARD.

5. FINALLY, WE ARE UNCERTAIN WHAT CONFLICTS MAY ARISE BE-
TWEEN OPIC AND THE EMBASSY'S E/C FUNCTION. USDOC VIEWS
ARE BEING SOUGHT ON THIS ISSUE.

6. AMONG ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO SATISFY OPIC LEGITIMATE
DESIRES TO BE RESPONSIVE TO CONGRESSIONAL CONCERNS, WE
HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT (BUT NOT YET EXAMINED) (1) DETAILING
AN OPIC OFFICER TO AID FOR SERVICE IN CAIRO AS A TEMPOR-
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ARY EMPLOYEE OR ON CONTRACT, (2) A 30-90 DAY TDY OF AN
OPIC OFFICER TO CAIRO TO STUDY THE PROSPECTS AND OPTIONS
FOR A MEANINGFUL OPIC CONTRIBUTION, OR (3) A WASHINGTON-
BASED OPIC OFFICER WHO WOULD TRAVEL FREQUENTLY TO THE AREA
OR PERIODICALLY FOR 30-DAY VISITS.

7. WE WILL OPPOSE THE DRAFT AMENDMENT PROPOSING THAT OPIC
DIRECTLY ADMINISTER SOME OF THE SSA FUNDS FOR EGYPT.

8. THE FOREGOING ARE DESIGNED TO BE OF SOME HELP TO YOU AS
YOU FORMULATE YOUR VIEWS IN RESPONSE TO THE SEPTTEL. IN
THIS RESPECT, THERE WILL BE COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING HERE
IF YOUR RESPONSE INCLUDES REQUESTS FOR MORE INFO AND
CLARIFICATIONS. WE WILL HAVE A BETTER FEEL FOR THE EX-
TENT TO WHICH WE HAVE A SERIOUS CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEM AF-
TER THE APRIL 25 SFRC HEARINGS AND WILL ADVISE YOU
PROMPTLY.

9. FINALLY, WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE HALF-BAKED NATURE OF OUR
"HELP" TO YOU IN THIS MESSAGE. PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT
THIS IS THE BEST WE COULD DO GIVEN THE INSISTENCE THAT
CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATIONS MANDATED THAT WE BE ABLE TO

SAY ON APRIL 25 AT LEAST THAT WE HAVE OPENED A "DIALOGUE"
WITH YOU ON THIS MATTER. CHRISTOPHER

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